

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JOHANN 00444 281442Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 USIE-00

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FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5678

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DURBAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 0444

CAPE TOWN ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, EGEN, SF, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S REPORTED MEETING WITH SIX EXECUTIVES OF
US-SA FIRMS

REF: JOHANNESBURG 394

1. THE FEBRUARY 26 EDITION OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY THE
STAR CARRIES THE FOLLOWING FRONT PAGE ARTICLE, DATED
WASHINGTON. ENTITLED " FIRST CARTER STEP TO SA CHANGE."
BEGIN TEXT.

THE UNITED STATES HAS TAKEN THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS EXERTING
PRESSURE FOR CHANGE IN SOUTH AFRICA THROUGH AMERICAN BUSINESS
OPERATIONS IN THE COUNTRY.

SIX EXECUTIVES OF AMERICAN CORPORATIONS MET SECRETARY OF
STATE CYRUS VANCE THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS THEIR ROLE IN
SOUTH AFRICA, STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES CONFIRMED YESTERDAY.
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THE EXECUTIVES REPRESENTED ABOUT 20 US COMPANIES BUT STATE
DEPARTMENT SOURCES WOULD NOT DISCLOSE THEIR NAMES OR THE
COMPANIES.

THIS FOLLOWS SUGGESTIONS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS TAKING A
PERSONAL INTEREST IN THE LEVERAGE THAT CAN BE APPLIED IN
SOUTH AFRICA BY AMERICAN BUSINESS INTERESTS AND THAT HE

INTENDS SUMMONING THE HEADS OF UP TO 360 AMERICAN COMPANIES
TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE IT CLEAR SINCE TAKING
OFFICE THAT IT INTENDS TO PURSUE THIS FORM OF PRESSURE ON
THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WITH STATEMENTS TO THIS
EFFECT ALREADY MADE BY UN AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG AND MR
VANCE.

STATE DEPARTMENT SOURCES TOLD ME THAT, WHILE NO DECISIONS
WERE MADE DURING THE SESSION WITH MR VANCE, THE AMERICAN
EXECUTIVES DISCUSSED THEIR ROLE IN ELIMINATING RACIAL
PRACTICES AND TO WHAT EXTENT THEIR POSITION IN SOUTH AFRICA
WOULD ENABLE THEM TO MAKE A CONSTRUCTIVE CONTRIBUTION.

CHANGES WHICH AMERICAN COMPANIES ARE CONTEMPLATING
ALMOST CERTAINLY INCLUDE PAYING EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL
WORK, ELIMINATING JOB RESERVATION, ABOLISHING SEPARATE
FACILITIES LIKE CANTEENS AND TOILETS, ADVANCEING BLACKS
TO MANAGERIAL POSITIONS AND COMING TO AN ARRANGEMENT
WITH BLACK WORKERS ON COLLECTIVE BARGAINING. END TEXT.
JOHNSON

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